

Spies Tap Capitol Hill

by Harry Belafonte

Editorial: Washington Post

WASHINGTON — The block from the home of the press is a three-story, concrete building with large, single-paneled doors. The top floor is on one side and the women's shop on the other. It carries no signs of advertising. It wears an air of mystery and intrigue.

Pedestrians walking on the other side of Pennsylvania Avenue, past the big annex of the Library of Congress, can see men moving behind the blinds on the second and third floors. The ground floor is almost faceless except for the closed garage doors.

"I think that building with the garage doors is the center of FBI wiretapping on Capitol Hill," says a 35-year-old Senator's assistant and passionate conviction. "I can't prove a damn thing, but I know it."

Up another block, beyond the street-corner vendor selling cut flowers, is a small shop with a giant poster in the window bearing the warning "Shhh, you're being tapped."

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It is the crypto-analysis section of the FBI crime laboratory where everything from horse race bookies' mysterious jottings to the code of the master Soviet spy Rudolf Ivanovich Abel have been broken.

WASHINGTON (AP) — The FBI has a large, three-story building on Capitol Hill that is the center of its wiretapping operations.

Has an unreasonable fear of federal electronic surveillance activities developed — fueled in part by Eisenhower's own tough talk disclosures of surveillance, and Democratic Leader Hale Boggs' charge that his telephone has been tapped by the FBI? The evidence indicates that federal agencies do more wiretapping and bugging than they officially admit — in a field that has increased significantly — but still do not do as much as many critics fear.

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"Let's face it, there couldn't possibly be as much electronic interception as people seem to think there is," says a former official. "There isn't that many agents to do it or money around to monitor the damn taps or tapes."

The average cost of a federal electronic "intercept" last year was put at \$2,100.

Although the FBI gets practically all the wiretap publicity, other federal agencies are involved to a lesser degree in the electronic interception of conversations, including the secret service, the Bureau of Prisons and Dangerous Drugs, the Customs Bureau and the Internal Revenue Service.

Although Attorney General Mitchell has ridiculed the far-out view of some in Washington who feel every room is bugged and that every phone is tapped and that the FBI is tapping the CIA, and the CIA is tapping the FBI, there is testimony that the FBI did tap an official CIA telephone.

In Washington, the center of FBI wiretapping is a building located in the FBI's Washington field office, one block from the Justice Department and only three blocks from the Chesapeake and Potomac Telephone Company.

"In the old days," recalls a former agent, "if you wanted to tap someone's telephone, you'd have to go to the phone company and ask them to tap it for you."

Some of the results according to former Attorney General Ramsey Clark, issued in his book, "The Role of the Federal Government in the Economy," are as follows:

He was ordered to
yield the FBI presents
court order for a writ ap-
under the Organized Crime A-
or in a matter of security or
against the interests of the
the FBI.

...developed on
Nichols's claim of the right
to the voting in the suc-
cession of domestic groups
such as the Black Panthers
the Weathermen and other
groups to be radicals and
dangerous.

and the FBI have admitted in court or in official statements the wire tapping, bugging or "overhearing" of the late Rev. Martin Luther King, boxer Muhammad Ali, black militant H. Rap Brown and five of the defendants in Chicago Seven trial, Black Panther leader David J. (Bunny) Sison and Sister Elizabeth Johnson in the alleged assassination of Dr. Martin Luther King.

Robert Aronson, Jr., a high official of the White House showed him and said that the FBI was tapping his official telephones when he was Deputy Director of Intelligence for the CIA from 1961 through 1963.

Now a Washington lawyer, Amory said he believes the phones were tapped because he favored U.S. Chinese relations and the United States.

... and hauling between the

At the start of the high foreign policy debate in the Johnson administration, the State Department tried to smooth relations with a high administration official. Their meeting resulted in a document that was a masterpiece of diplomatic evasion.

Is there more or less wire-tapping than there used to be? Should Americans be worried?

For years surveillance of foreign agents and missions was carried out to protect national security. The 1953 Communist Crime bill gave

deep on "Guns, Violence, and the Groups Around 66-67 in the North".

When arrested, [redacted]
Democrat, [redacted]
was a [redacted] and
President [redacted]
It was [redacted]